IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS MARSHALL DIVISION

TQ DELTA, LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

CIV. A. NO. 2:21-CV-310-JRG (Lead Case)

COMMSCOPE HOLDING COMPANY, INC., COMMSCOPE INC., ARRIS INTERNATIONAL LIMITED, ARRIS GLOBAL LTD., ARRIS US HOLDINGS, INC., ARRIS SOLUTIONS, INC., ARRIS TECHNOLOGY, INC., and ARRIS ENTERPRISES, LLC,

Defendants.

TQ DELTA, LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

NOKIA CORP., NOKIA SOLUTIONS AND NETWORKS OY, and NOKIA OF AMERICA CORP.,

Defendants.

CIV. A. NO. 2:21-CV-309-JRG (Member Case)

NOKIA OF AMERICA CORP.,

Third-Party Plaintiff,

v.

BROADCOM CORP., BROADCOM INC., and AVAGO TECHNOLOGIES INTERNATIONAL SALES PTE. LTD.,

Third-Party Defendants.

NOKIA'S OPPOSITION TO THE THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS

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2	Correspondence from Howard Shatz to Ryan D. Phillips, dated Aug. 26, 2021
3	Correspondence from Ryan D. Phillips to Howard Shatz, dated Oct. 7, 2021
4	Correspondence from Howard Shatz to Ryan D. Phillips, dated Nov. 17, 2021
5	Email correspondence from Howard Shatz to Ryan D. Phillips, dated November 29, 2021
6	Correspondence from Ryan D. Phillips to Howard Shatz, dated Dec. 6, 2021
7	Correspondence from Howard Shatz to Ryan D. Phillips, dated Dec. 16, 2021

I. Introduction

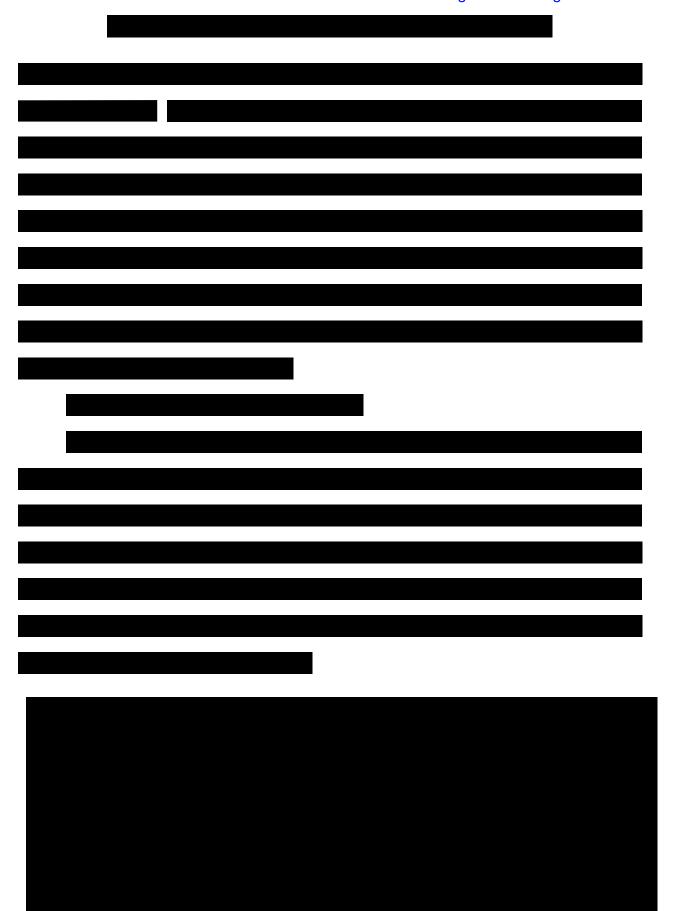
TQ Delta alleges Nokia's products infringe based on their use of Broadcom's DSL chipsets, the vast majority of which were purchased during the pendency of Nokia's agreement with Broadcom. Nokia's agreement with Broadcom includes an indemnification provision that undisputedly covers these products and these claims. Rule 14(a)(1) provides that Nokia "may, as third-party plaintiff, serve a summons and complaint on a nonparty who *is or may be liable* to it for all or part of the claim against it" (emphasis added). Fed. R. Civ. P. 14(a)(1). Nokia's indemnification claim falls squarely within the ambit of that Rule; thus, Broadcom's motion should be denied.

But Broadcom ignores the fact that
rights that accrue under a contract survive Specifically, absent
language to the contrary, an agreement's warranty or indemnification provision generally survives
with respect to products purchased during the contract's pendency. Applying this
principle here confirms that Broadcom's indemnification obligations continue on for products
ordered and delivered prior to
Knowing the fragility of its position, Broadcom suggests that if the indemnification
provision survives, then this dispute
Broadcom is wrong for three reasons. First, the parties do not dispute the applicability
or terms of the relevant agreements, and thus this is not a dispute arising out of the
Nokia/Broadcom agreement.
and Nokia's claim for indemnification
seeks equitable relief.

See Ex. C to Broadcom's Mot. at 1-2.

As relevant here, t

¹ Alcatel-Lucent was later acquired by Nokia, and Alcatel-Lucent USA Inc. changed its name to Nokia of America Corporation, a defendant and third-party plaintiff in this action.



elta filed the Complaint in this case against Nokia on August 13, 202	1. Dkt. 1.
Ita filed the Complaint in this case against Nokia on August 13, 202	I. Dkt. I



Nokia filed its third-party Complaint on January 28, 2022 with one count: indemnification. Dkt. 70 at 47. Nokia's claim seeks, *inter alia*, equitable relief in the form of a declaration that Nokia is entitled to indemnity from Broadcom.

III. ISSUE TO BE DECIDED BY THE COURT²

(1) Whether Nokia's impleader claim is facially plausible.

² Broadcom's Motion under Rules 12(b)(6), 12(b)(1), and 12(b)(3) is a case-dispositive motion under L.R. CV-7(a)(1), however, Broadcom does not provide a statement of the issues to be decided by the court. *See*, *e.g.*, L.R. CV-7(a)(2) ("Non-dispositive motions include, among others, motions to transfer venue, motions for partial summary judgment, and motions for new trial pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 59."); L.R. CV-7(a)(1) ("Case dispositive motions shall contain a statement of the issues to be decided by the court.").

IV. LEGAL STANDARDS

A. Rule 12(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure

Under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, a complaint must include "a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief." Fed. R. Civ P. 8(a)(2). A Court can dismiss a complaint that fails to meet this standard. Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6). To survive dismissal at the pleading stage, a complaint must state enough facts such that the claim to relief is plausible on its face. *Thompson v. City of Waco*, 764 F.3d 500, 502 (5th Cir. 2014) (quoting *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007)). A claim is facially plausible when the plaintiff pleads enough facts to allow the Court to draw a reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged. *Id.* (quoting *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009)). The Court accepts well-pleaded facts as true and views all facts in the light most favorable to the plaintiff, but is not required to accept the plaintiff's legal conclusions as true. *Id.*

B. Rules 12(b)(1) and 12(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure

A motion to dismiss pursuant to an arbitration clause may invoke either Rule 12(b)(1) as a motion to dismiss for lack of subject-matter jurisdiction or Rule 12(b)(3) as a motion to dismiss for improper venue. The Fifth Circuit has not definitively held which provision of the Rules is the proper rule for a motion to dismiss based on an arbitration clause, but it has "accepted Rule 12(b)(3) as a proper method for seeking dismissal in favor of arbitration." *See McDonnel Grp.*, *L.L.C. v. Great Lakes Ins. Se*, 923 F.3d 427, 430 n.5 (5th Cir. 2019).

C. Federal Arbitration Act

"The FAA requires courts to 'enforce arbitration agreements according to their terms." Lamps Plus, Inc. v. Varela, 139 S. Ct. 1407, 1415 (2019). "'[T]he first principle that underscores all... arbitration decisions' is that '[a]rbitration is strictly a matter of consent." Id. The Supreme Court has "emphasized that 'foundational FAA principle' many times." Id. (citing cases).

"Consent is essential under the FAA because arbitrators wield only the authority they are given. That is, they derive their 'powers from the parties' agreement to forgo the legal process and submit their disputes to private dispute resolution." *Id.* "Parties may generally shape such agreements to their liking by specifying with whom they will arbitrate, the issues subject to arbitration, the rules by which they will arbitrate, and the arbitrators who will resolve their disputes." *Id.* "Whatever they settle on, the task for courts and arbitrators at bottom remains the same: 'to give effect to the intent of the parties." *Id.*

V. ARGUMENT

Even assuming that the indemnification provision of that agreement survives as a matter of law—the indemnity provisions apply and entitle Nokia to the relief sought through its impleader claim. Broadcom also cannot avoid that claim by attempting to

Because the parties do not dispute the applicability or terms of any of the contractual provisions, Nokia's indemnification claim does not Even if there were a dispute under the terms of the Nokia's equitable claim for indemnity here would be

For these reasons, Nokia respectfully submits that Broadcom's Motion should be denied.

A. Nokia's Right to Seek Indemnification Survives

Broadcom argues that it should not be held to its agreed responsibilities with respect to products undisputedly purchased under the because it

See Mot. at 7. Broadcom's position is not only legally incorrect, but it is also illogical

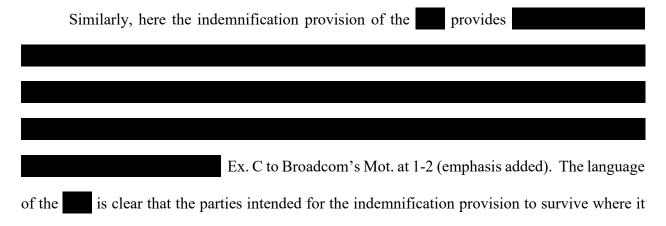
considering the intent of the contract and the settled expectations of the parties.

The Supreme Court held in *Litton Financial Printing Division v. NLRB* that "contractual obligations will cease, in the ordinary course, upon termination of the" contract. 501 U.S. 190 (1990). But the Court went on to hold that there are exceptions to this rule, which "are determined by contract interpretation." *Id.* at 207. Specifically, rights "which accrued or vested under the agreement will, as a general rule, survive termination of the agreement." *Id.* (emphasis added). Further, "structural provisions relating to remedies and dispute resolution . . . may in some cases survive in order to enforce duties arising under the contract." *Id.* at 208.

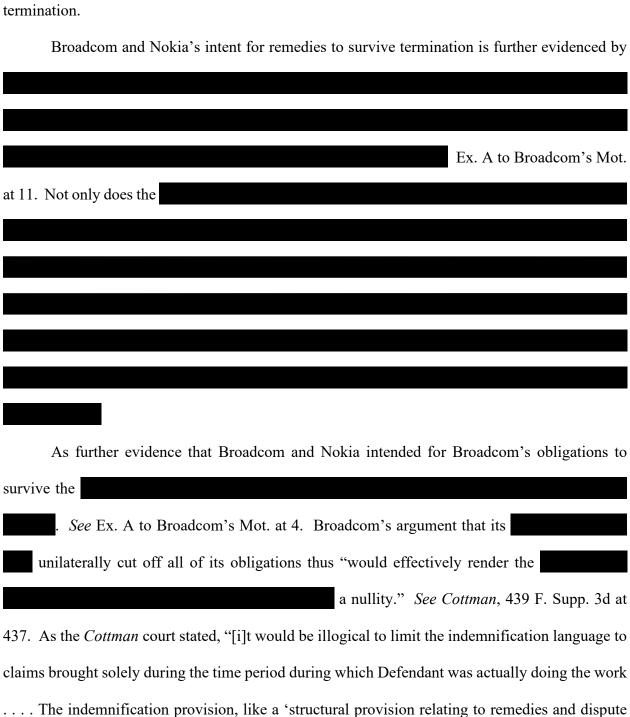
Following Litton, the court in Cottman Avenue PRP Group v. AMEC Foster Wheeler Environmental Infrastructure Inc. held that an indemnification provision survived termination of the contract in view of the Supreme Court's guidance that "structural provisions" of contracts survive. 439 F. Supp. 3d 407, 434-37 (E.D. Penn. Feb. 13, 2020). In Cottman, the court acknowledged that "[a]lthough precedent addressing the survival of indemnification clauses is sparse," other cases such as those "addressing the survival of arbitration and forum selection clauses provide some guidance," where "[c]ourts have repeatedly held that such clauses can survive termination of the agreement where they are broadly written to apply to 'any legal dispute' and the dispute involves facts and occurrences that arose before expiration of the contract." Id. at 435. The court in *Cottman* went on to hold that "[t]his remains true despite the absence of language expressly providing for the survival of these provisions." *Id.* at 435-36. The court held that the relevant indemnification provision survived because it was written such that it "extends to 'any and all' claims, losses, damages, liability, costs or actions arising out of 'or resulting from' Defendants' negligence 'in the performance' of the work under the Contracts." *Id.* at 436-37. As stated by the Cottman court, "[s]uch language unambiguously indicates that the provision was

intended to be remedial in nature and survive contractual expiration so long as . . . the underlying negligence giving rise to the claim, . . . had its source in the work completed under the Contracts and during the contractual period." *Id*.

Other courts have held the same—that indemnification obligations survive the expiration of the contract. See, e.g., Millennium Petrochemicals, Inc. v. Brown & Root Holdings, Inc., 390 F.3d 336, 341, 346 (5th Cir. 2004) (holding that an indemnification provision survived termination of the contract for claims based on facts that occurred during contract); Lake Imaging, LLC v. Franciscan Alliance, Inc., No. 21S-CT-478, 182 N.E.3d 203, 211 (Ind. 2022) ("Nothing in the Agreement indicates that the obligation to indemnify for past services would end when the contract terminated."); Kee's Chocolates LLC v. Charles Thompson LLC, CV-00176/18, 119 N.Y.S.3d 11, at *33-34 (Civ. Ct. of the City of N.Y. 2019) (rejecting argument that indemnification obligation expired with expiration of contract). For example, in Millennium Petrochemicals, the Fifth Circuit explained: "[W]e are aware of no Texas authority that provides that the termination of agreements automatically applies retroactively to extinguish vested rights. . . . Other circuits have also held that rights that have vested or accrued under a contract prior to the termination of the contract, are not automatically extinguished upon termination. . . . The parties have not cited, nor has our research revealed, any cases from other circuits which hold otherwise." 390 F.3d at 340.



is "broadly written to apply to '[any infringement claim]' and the dispute involves facts and occurrences that arose before expiration of the contract." *See Cottman*, 439 F. Supp. 3d at 435. Therefore, the parties' clear intent under the is for Broadcom's obligations to survive termination.



resolution,' must 'survive in order to enforce duties arising under the contract." See Cottman, 439 F. Supp. 3d at 437.

Broadcom's cases are inapposite. Broadcom cites only one case from New York,³ and in that case, the Court held that the indemnification obligation terminated where the agreement included explicit survival provisions in other portions of the agreement but such a provision was noticeably absent from the indemnification provision. Pierson v. Empire State Land Assoc., LLC, No. 2008-04616, 886 N.Y.S.2d 411, 65 A.D.3d 1114, 1115 (N.Y. App. Div. 2009). Similarly, in Fraco Products v. Bostonian Masonry Corp. the "Transfer of Risks and Insurance" provision did not survive because other portions of the contract included explicit survival provisions. No. 12-P-933, 955 N.E.2d 1125, 84 Mass. App. Ct. 296, 307 (Mass. App. Ct. 2013). This is not a case where the parties included which could indicate an affirmative intent for an indemnification obligation to not survive Instead, the clear language See Ex. C to Broadcom's Mot. at 1-2; Ex. A

to Broadcom's Mot. at 4.

Broadcom's final case is similarly inapposite. In Griffin, the relevant injury occurred two years after the agreement terminated, and thus even if the indemnification obligation survived, it would not have governed the claim. See Griffin Indus., Inc. v. Foodmaker, Inc., No. 14-98-00881-CV, 22 S.W.3d 33, 36 (Tex. Ct. App. May 11, 2000). Further, Griffin was a personal-injury case that did not present the same ongoing obligations that apply to

See Mot. at 8.

See id.; see also Millennium Petrochemicals, 390 F.3d at 341 (distinguishing Griffin, stating that "[i]n Griffin Indus., unlike here, the indemnitee's employee was injured (and suit was filed) after the expiration of the contract that contained the indemnity provision").

Broadcom's position that it is able to unilaterally cut off all its own duties and obligations under the is illogical at best. It is clear from the language and context of the contract that the parties intended for the indemnification provision to survive, at least as to products purchased prior to Under these facts, Nokia has plausibly stated a claim for indemnification under the and the Court should deny Broadcom's Motion.

B. TQ Delta's Claims Do Not Arise Under the Route Between Broadcom and Nokia

To the extent that Broadcom argues that the Nokia's indemnification claim should be resolved by arbitration separate from the sissue, Broadcom is wrong. Nokia's indemnification claim does not separate from the sissue, Broadcom is wrong. Nokia's indemnification claim does not separate from the sissue, Broadcom is wrong. Nokia's indemnification claim is properly before this Court.

There is no disagreement _______ to be arbitrated because the parties do not dispute the contractual terms of the _______

1152, 1154 (5th Cir. 1981) (holding that an arbitration clause was not applicable in a claim related to an agreed-upon contract because "the parties chose the more restrictive language limiting arbitration to disputes or differences arising out of the" contract, rather than all disputes between

See, e.g., Texaco, Inc. v. Am. Trading Transp. Co., 644 F.2d

the parties); see also, e.g., Tracer Rsch Corp. v. Nat'l Envtl. Servs. Co., 42 F.3d 1292, 1295 (9th Cir. 1994) (recognizing that a clause requiring arbitration relating to disputes "arising out of the Agreement" to be narrow compared to use of the language "arising out of or in relation to").

Notably, there is no dispute between Nokia and Broadcom regarding breach of contract; rather, Nokia has simply exercised its statutory right to implead Broadcom for indemnification where Broadcom "may be liable" for the damages sought by TQ Delta. Broadcom's argument that Nokia's indemnification demand should be arbitrated amounts to alleging that all disputes "relating to" the should be arbitrated, but such argument is inconsistent Broadcom appears to admit as much. See Mtn. at 8 (added). Because Nokia does not dispute that Broadcom the Agreement for purposes of this Motion, by Broadcom's own admission, Nokia's claim does not invoke the arbitration clause because neither party has identified any dispute regarding the terms of the agreement. Nokia's claim for indemnification is therefore properly before this Court, and Nokia respectfully submits that the Court should deny Broadcom's Motion.

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C.

Even had either party identified a dispute, the specific relief sought by Nokia in this case would still not be subject to arbitration.

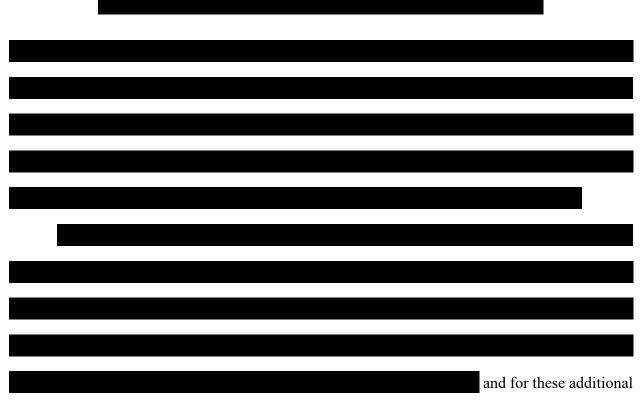
Ex. 1 at 6-7. In particular, the

In its Third-Party Complaint, Nokia pled a sole count for indemnification (not breach) and Nokia seeks equitable relief in the form of a declaration that "Nokia is entitled to indemnity from Broadcom for all amounts for which Nokia may be held liable." Dkt. 70 at 48. Through the Court's judgment, Nokia seeks a declaration that Broadcom owes an indemnity obligation to Nokia with respect to TQ Delta's claims, which is a request for equitable relief. *See, e.g., Canal Ins. Co. v. Flores*, No. 3:06-CV-84-KC, 2009 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 37013, at *50-51 (W.D. Tex. Apr. 13, 2009) ("By its very nature, the Federal Declaratory Act is a form of equitable relief, which states that a court with jurisdiction "may declare the rights and other legal relations of any interested party seeking such declaration, whether or not further relief is or could be sought.""). Therefore, even if Nokia's claim were to

and for this additional

reason, Broadcom's Motion should be denied.

D. Even If Nokia's Claim Invoked the Arbitration Clause, To the extent that Nokia's claim were to invoke the A party may "waive a legal right through intentional conduct inconsistent with that right," and "[w]hether a party implicitly waived a legal right turns on the party's intent." Gonzalez v. Meridian Sec. Ins. Co., No. 4:20-cv-00643, 2021 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 140302, at *10 (E.D. Tex. July 28, 2021). A party's intent "must be clearly demonstrated by the surrounding facts and circumstances," and conduct to establish waiver "must be unequivocally inconsistent with claiming a known right." See id. Whether the party's conduct was inconsistent with their legal rights is a question of fact for the jury. See id.; see also Beth Isr. Med. Ctr. v. Horizon Blue Cross & Blue Shield of N.J., Inc., 448 F.3d 573, 585 (2d Cir. 2006) ("[W]aiver of a contract right 'is the voluntary abandonment or relinquishment of a known [contract] right. It is essentially a matter of intent which must be proved."").



reasons, the Court should deny Broadcom's Motion.

VI. CONCLUSION

For the reasons shown, Nokia respectfully submits that this Court should deny Broadcom's Motion.

Dated: April 28, 2022 Respectfully submitted,

/s/ M. Scott Stevens

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing document has been served on counsel of record for Broadcom via e-mail on April 28, 2022.

/s/ *M. Scott Stevens*M. Scott Stevens

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing document was served electronically on May 2, 2022, on all counsel who have consented to electronic service via ECF.

/s/ *M. Scott Stevens*M. Scott Stevens